



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

February 9, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Career and Technical Education Administrators

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: February is Career and Technical Education Month

Governor Rick Snyder has declared February 2012 as Career and Technical Education Month.

Secondary career and technical education (CTE) programs are designed to provide high school students with specific knowledge and valuable skills leading to initial employment and additional education through apprenticeships or a postsecondary institution. CTE programs integrate academic learning with technical training to enhance and strengthen skills while preparing students for careers.

CTE courses provide students with opportunities for real world learning and help them discover the connection between the academics required to graduate and their plans for a future career. For the last 10 years, the high school completion rate for students who complete CTE programs in Michigan has been above 97 percent.

The increased academic rigor within the Michigan Merit Curriculum is especially important now with the expectation and relevance of academics to future careers. Students must have opportunities to realize how the academic skills they must master apply to the world of work and how the world of work has changed to require lifelong learning. Academic achievement success for CTE students has been 75 percent. These are students who may have dropped out if not enrolled in the courses that match their learning style and teach them knowledge and skills that make sense to them.

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Michigan students enroll in over 2,100 instructional programs such as pre-engineering, automotive technology, health care, and construction trades that are offered in their local high schools or at separate career center buildings. In addition, new and emerging programs continue to be developed and the curriculum is continuously updated. CTE teachers maintain a continuous relationship with Business and Industry Advisory Committees to ensure that their curriculum meets the needs for a well-skilled workforce.

CTE educators realize the importance of continuing education for students beyond high school and early college credit opportunities for students while in high school. In fact, every high school CTE program of study must be aligned a postsecondary degree or industry-recognized certificate or credential. Dual enrollment opportunities in CTE and articulated credit help move students forward into postsecondary studies. School districts in Michigan annually conduct a follow-up study of all CTE students who have graduated from high school.

All Michigan citizens are urged to join in celebrating Career and Technical Education Month and the valuable opportunities CTE programs offer. In addition, all schools and communities are encouraged to support, promote, and participate in these programs which will benefit both Michigan and the entire nation by preparing our students to be vital members of a strong, well-educated workforce.

For more information on CTE, please contact Patty Cantú, Director, Office of Career and Technical Education, at: cantup@michigan.gov or telephone (517) 335-5224. Please visit: www.michigan.gov/octe to review and/or download the proclamation and visit: www.acteonline.org to learn more. Also, please check out the *CTE Month: Video Shows How CTE Works Across the Nation* at: <http://vimeo.com/31386280>.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance